

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 EUR-08 IO-06 PM-03

NSCE-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 PRS-01 USIA-01

ACDA-10 L-01 /059 W

-----052865 142120Z /62

R 141410Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8070

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3467

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN C-130 SHOT DOWN

1. DURING COURSE OF FRENCH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, FONMIN BOTHA TOOK ME TO ONE SIDE TO SAY THAT HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT TWO DAYS AGO AN ANGOLAN C-130 WAS SHOT DOWN NEAR THE NAMIBIAN BORDER. I ASKED WHERE THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE AIRCRAFT. BOTHA QUICKLY AFFIRMED THAT THE SHOOT-DOWN DID NOT RESULT FROM SOUTH AFRICAN FIRE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF ON THE ANGOLAN SIDE IN THE GENERAL AREA OF RUACANA AND FELL SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS INSIDE OF ANGOLA.

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AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT, BOTHA SAID, HE WAS IN OVAMBO TOGETHER WITH ALL RPT ALL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS. USING A LOGIC NOT READILY APPARENT, HE ARGUED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE COMMANDERS WITH HIM. BOTHA NOTED THAT THE PRESS WAS NOT AWARE OF THE INCIDENT AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT COME UPON IT UNLESS ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES CHOSE

TO INFORM THEM, IN WHICH CASE THE GPRA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
BLAME THE SAG. HE AGAIN REPEATED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD
NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CRASH OF THE AIRCRAFT, WHICH HE
ATTRIBUTED TO UNITA FORCES OPERATING IN THE AREA.

2. COMMENT: BOTHA'S PRESENTATION HAD THE AIR OF PROTESTING
TOO LOUDLY. I ASKED HIM HOW HE KNEW THE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN
SHOT DOWN, RATHER THAN SUFFERED MECHANICAL FAILURE, IF IT
TOOK OFF AND FELL IN ANGOLAN TERRITORY AND THERE WAS NO
FIRE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN SIDE. HE HAD NO ANSWER BEYOND
AFFIRMING THAT THEY KNEW THIS TO BE THE CASE.

BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR03467
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861291
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLAN C-130 SHOT DOWN
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SF, WA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2780566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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